

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2002, claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 are subject to a restriction requirement as referenced below.

A restriction requirement was imposed on the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I, claims 1-17, drawn to a rotary die having first and second supports, classified in class 83, subclass 343;

Group II, claims 18-28, drawn to a method of installing a die, classified in class 76, subclass 107.1;

Group III, claims 29-35, drawn to a method of disassembling a die, classified in class 29, subclass 426.3.

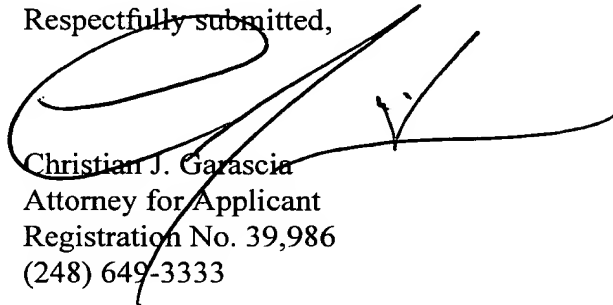
Applicant, through his attorneys, hereby elects Group I corresponding to claims 1-17, classified in class 83, subclass 343, with traverse.

Under paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner identifies Groups II and III as related processes to the apparatus Group I. The Examiner states that the Groups II and III methods could be accomplished without the supports required by the apparatus. Applicant respectfully traverses on grounds the Examiner has not met his burden to provide reasonable examples that recite material differences between the inventive apparatus and the Examiner's hypothetical apparatus. The Examiner's sole example, as understood, removes first modular die support 38 and second modular die support 66 from the apparatus to support a position of a materially different apparatus capable of practicing the Groups II and III methods. However, removal of the above-identified supports, in the absence of a different die support or mounting scheme, renders the apparatus inoperable for its intended purpose. Therefore, the Examiner has not provided the required reasonable examples that recite material differences to properly ground restriction of Group I from Groups II and III.

Applicant does not traverse restriction between method Groups II and III as stated in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

For the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of restriction of Group I from Groups II and III as stated by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the above-identified Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJG', is written over the typed name and contact information.

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